

Please accept this submission for the JSCEM's Inquiry into the 2010 Federal Election.

I am an Australian citizen living in the United States. I have lived abroad for over 20 years and have not taken on another citizenship due to my loyalty and allegiance to Australia. I was very young when I came overseas and experienced a very tumultuous and difficult time, during which I was totally unaware that I would lose my voting rights if I was not fully engaged with the events happening back home regarding elections.

As a result, I am not currently on the Commonwealth electoral roll. Whilst offshore the Australian Federal Electoral System did not provide any communication alerting me that I would become ineligible to vote, and again due to my circumstances at the time, I was not aware of being removed or at risk of being removed.

I am married with two children, who are also proud Citizens of Australia. Both of my children and me have visited family and relatives in Australia at minimum 8 times over the past 20 years. I am very much connected to the events of Australian politics and business and am keenly aware of the issues surrounding Australian governance of politics.

I am an Australian living overseas and would very much appreciate the opportunity to also be counted as an Australian Citizen with full voting rights, and to be able to serve my country in this capacity.

Sincerely,

Tammy A. Wells-Putz